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learned works. Through the generosity of the Ministries of Public Education and Agriculture, the Balaton Committee of the Geographical Society has made researches and published a work of several volumes on Lake Balaton. Besides its other work, the Geographical Society is engaged in the publication of a large atlas and has founded the Geographical Library. In the popularization of science, much is due to the Urania Theatre of Sciences, which has been working for several years, and has produced more than one hundred geographical pieces dealing with the beauties of Hungary and of foreign countries. Among discoverers and explorers we find the names of Ladislaus Magyar, Count Maurice Benyovsky, Csoma Körösi, Xantus, Vambéry, Louis Biró, Aurelius Stein, Count Samuel Teleki, and the expeditions of Count Béla Féchenzi and Count Zichy, who, together with others whose names have not been mentioned, occupy an honourable place in the list of the distinguished servants of science.

NOTES ON TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEYS IN ALASKA, 1904.

The rapid advance in the development of the mineral resources of Alaska has led to such a demand for geologic surveys of the mining districts that, for the present, the United States Geological Survey has been compelled to postpone further exploratory surveys. The work of the past season has, therefore, been rather in the nature of the extension and amplification of previous surveys than of the mapping of new areas. Three parties have carried on topographic surveys in Alaska: one in the Yukon-Tanana belt; one in the Kenai Peninsula; and the third in the Nome district of the Seward Peninsula. The surveys in the Tanana-Yukon region covered an area extending westward from the Fortymile Quadrangle to the special map of the Fairbanks and Birch Creek districts, made last year. These surveys covered an area of approximately 4,500 square miles, on a field scale of 1:180,000. The weather conditions were such that much time was lost, or a considerably larger area would probably have been mapped.

The party working in the Kenai Peninsula made a reconnaissance survey northward from Resurrection Bay, including the Sunrise placer district. This work, which is of the reconnaissance

type, was on a field scale of 1:180,000, and covered an area of approximately 2,000 square miles. During the latter part of the season the party extended its work southward along the western margin of the Kenai Mountains to Kachemak Bay. This part of the journey was through a region that was little known and was more or less of an exploratory character. The physical obstacles to travel and the bad weather conditions made it impossible to carry on a continuous survey throughout this belt, but the larger features of the topography were sketched and some positions determined.

The most novel feature of the Alaskan topographic work this season was the preparation of a special map of a part of the Nome mining district. The demand in this region, where hundreds of thousands of dollars are being invested in mining plans, has been for more detailed surveys than the ordinary reconnaissance work. As the production of placer gold is constantly increasing, it seemed desirable to make a special map of this area, and the field scale of 1:45,000 was chosen for this purpose. This map will be used as a base for detailed geologic work, and will also be of immense value in connection with the extensive hydraulic engineering works which are being undertaken for the development of the gold placers. The area covered embraces about 460 square miles, stretching northward from Nome, and includes some of the richest placer grounds of the district.

The control for this work was obtained from the triangulation of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. While it does not seem feasible now to cover the entire peninsula by this character of mapping, it seems probable that there are several areas of especial economic importance where there will be a demand for this kind of work. For the general purposes of the prospector and explorer the maps published on a scale of 1:250,000, or 4 miles to one inch, seem ample; while, where more detail is demanded, only the special, large-scale maps would fulfill the requirements. It will probably be many years before it is worth while to carry on systematic surveys on the larger scales in Alaska, as is now done in the States.

Besides the surveys made by topographers, two geologic parties have contributed some geographic data. The one, while making a reconnaissance of the coal fields of Cape Lisburne, on the Arctic coast of Alaska, made sketch traverses of several hundred square miles of a region which is practically unexplored; another party carried on a rough reconnaissance survey along the western shore of Cook Inlet—this latter work being checked by latitude and

azimuth observations and intersections on points of known position. While the work of these two parties cannot be compared with the instrumental surveys of the regular topographic parties, yet inasmuch as it is done at small cost in regions which will probably not soon be accurately surveyed, it will produce results of considerable value; for they serve not only as bases for the geologic and economic maps, but also are a great improvement on the present cartography of the region.

BOOK NOTICES.

Voyage au Rio Curud, 20 Novembre 1900-7 Mars 1901. Ouvrage illustré de 34 Vignettes et de 1 Carte.—Voyage à La Mapuerd, 21 Avril 1901-24 Décembre 1901. Ouvrage illustré de 36 Vignettes et de 1 Carte.—Voyage au Maycurú, 5 Juin 1902-12 Janvier 1903. Ouvrage illustré de 57 Vignettes et de 1 Carte. Par O. Coudreau. Paris, A. Lahure, Imprimeur-Éditeur, 9 rue de Fleurus, 1903. 3 vols. 4to.

Madame Coudreau is an excellent traveller, with a passion for exploring the great solitudes of the Brazilian forests.

The region described in these three volumes lies to the north of the Amazon, in what is known as Brazilian Guiana—a land of rivers and water-courses, with many rapids and falls. Navigating these rivers was slow work, and it was not always easy to get a night's rest in camping, disturbed as the voyagers were by ants and mosquitoes, by thunderstorms, and sometimes by the passage of a drove of peccaries. The vampire-bat was a frequent visitor, and, in spite of quinine, fever attacked the party.

Madame Coudreau declares (*Rio Curud*, p. 107):

I am charged with the survey of rivers and with scientific exploration; commerce and exploitation are no concern of mine.

None the less, she notes the wealth of these forests in precious woods and the abundance of rubber-trees, practically inaccessible so long as the only approach to the interior is by way of the streams.

The inhabitants of this region are of various races, strangely mixed, and attractive only to the anthropologist, if even to him.